



Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

— *Lee Holloway* —

Chairman of the Board

November 9, 2006

For Immediate Release

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**MILWAUKEE COUNTY TAKES LEAD IN EFFORTS TO
REDUCE HEALTH CARE DISPARITIES AMONG MINORITIES NATIONWIDE**

County chosen for roundtable discussion because of its rich services

This morning, Milwaukee County Board Chairman Lee Holloway hosted an important meeting exploring ways to reduce health care disparities in the African-American community.

The panel focused on three key areas:

- Personal health and wellness
- Care administered by hospitals and providers
- Health care policy at the State and Local levels

“When we look at minorities, we find some of the biggest disparities in the areas of teenage pregnancy and infant mortality,” Holloway said. “We’re trying to close that gap through Milwaukee County’s General Assistance Medical Program and a variety of community education efforts.”

The roundtable discussion was led by Linda Haithcox, the Executive Director of the National Organization of Black County Officials, based in Washington, D.C. Haithcox said, “I’m interested in applying the information we’ve gathered here in Milwaukee to our larger study. Compared to other counties I’ve visited during this project, Milwaukee County provides very rich services.”

Milwaukee County was one of 149 counties chosen to help discover initiatives to reduce health disparities in minority communities. “Considering there are 3,300 counties in the United States, this is a pretty good opportunity for Milwaukee County to help us,” Haithcox said.

Supervisors Elizabeth Coggs-Jones, Michael Mayo, Sr., Willie Johnson, Jr., Toni Clark, and Peggy West also participated in this morning’s panel, along with Milwaukee County Health and Human Services Director Rob Henken and Milwaukee City Health Commissioner Bevan Baker.

Chairman Holloway also thanked Career Youth Development Executive Director Jeannetta Robinson, Milwaukee Health Services President/CEO C. C. Henderson, Dr. Patricia McManus of the Black Health Coalition, Deborah Blanks of the Social Development Commission, and Dr. Michael Fite for their participation in the discussion.

The effort is in conjunction with the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and the Joint Center for Political & Economic Studies Health Policy Institute.

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